PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

I am extremely happy to present the third edition of the complete biography of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar which has been termed a monumental and immortal biography. The favourable reception accorded to the original biography by leading Indian and foreign papers and by eminent persons has encouraged me to bring it up-to-date. I have incorporated new facts and new information collected by me, at the appropriate places in historical sequence. This additional matter reveals the opinion of Dr. Ambedkar on the work and mission of Marathi saint-poets, gives his views on the main features of the Constitution and relates the tragic event in his life in the death of his infant son.

I acknowledge my debt of gratitude to S. N. Shrivtarkar and Shankarrao Wadvalkar for providing me with some material for the first edition of the book and to Vasantrao Chitre, Naval Bhathena, S. S. Rege, and N. C. Rattu for providing me with some material for the second edition. I am grateful to the readers and reviewers and publishers who provided me with a unique opportunity of offering this definitive biography. My thanks are also due to the printers for the interest they take in my work.

DHANANJAY KEER
PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

It is my pleasure and privilege to present the first full-length, up-to-date and authentic biography of this great Indian scholar and statesman, leader and liberator and the Chief Architect of the Constitution of India. Having won her political independence, India now needs to be refashioned into a social and economic democracy; and the life of no other political leader constitutes this message than the life of Dr. Ambedkar. Although his life, with all his sacrifices, struggles and scholarship, is chiefly devoted to liberating six crores of people from their age-long bondage and is a new era in the lives of those suppressed people, it is no less a glorious fight for ushering in India a social and economic democracy.

This book is a study of the history of this great man in which I have endeavoured to cast a gripping light on his words and deeds and the motives from which they sprang. I have limned him as he is.

Ambedkar has played the part of destiny in the liberation of suppressed humanity in India. So India must learn to understand his life, character and mission and know him as he is and not as he is distorted by his enemies or deified by his devotees. In order to help readers see the development of his mind and understand the bitterness and violence with which he attacked the old views and values that had defaced a part of humanity in this land, I have traced the events and facts in their proper context and perspective and dealt with the views of his great contemporaries with whom he came into clash. In doing so I have not the remotest idea of belittling their greatness. Every great man has his minor foibles and flaws and when he moves and struggles in a particular field, he comes into conflict with the great ones in that field.

This biography is important from another point of view. Thought-provoking and provocative, this life is highly instructive to everyone who yearns for human dignity and equality in human relations in society. Besides, it provides a most inspiring
example of what a man can achieve by his indomitable perseverance and great self-denial, even under the most depressing and destitute circumstances. It provides also a lesson that one should rely upon one's own efforts in life rather than depend upon the help and patronage of others. Ambedkar's eternal search for knowledge, his incredible industry and his unflinching aim with which he raised himself from dust to doyen, from the life of a social leper to the position of a constitution-maker, and his heroic struggle for raising the down-trodden to human dignity will constitute a golden chapter in the history of this nation and in the history of human freedom as well.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. Ambedkar for the interviews he granted me and for clearing some points in relation to some events. I acknowledge with gratitude the kindness of my friends in reading the manuscript and the proofs, and also the encouragement my benefactors gave me at every stage in the production of the book.

My grateful thanks are due to those who have supplied me with the material. I acknowledge gratefully my debt to all the authors, journals and publishers from whose books or publications I have drawn excerpts. Thanks are due to the India Printing Works for their prompt and exquisite execution of the work.

Mahim, Bombay
May 16, 1954

Dhananjay Keer